

January 26, 2016

For Immediate Release

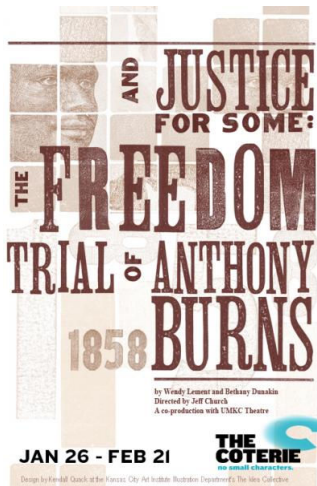
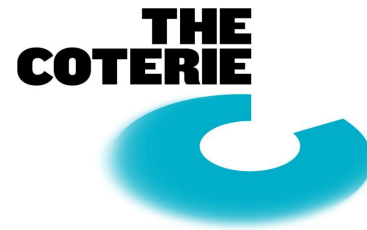
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PRESS RELEASE

The Coterie & UMKC Theatre
co-present interactive historical drama
*And Justice for Some:
The Freedom Trial of Anthony Burns
[1858]*

OVERVIEW:

WHAT: *And Justice for Some: The Freedom Trial of Anthony Burns [1858]*

Written by Wendy Lement and Bethany Dunakin

Directed by Jeff Church

WHEN: **January 26 – February 21, 2016**

Press / Opening Night: Friday, January 29, at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Coterie, Level one of Crown Center, 2450 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO

PRICE: \$11.00 for youth under 18, full-time students, and seniors age 60 and older;
\$15.00 for adults; \$5.00 - \$6.50 for Groups of 20 or more.

INFO / RESERVATIONS: The Coterie Box Office

Phone: (816) 474-6552

Online: www.thecoterie.org

Kansas City, MO – The Coterie and UMKC Theatre present *And Justice for Some: The Freedom Trial of Anthony Burns [1858]*, an interactive drama written by Wendy Lement and Bethany Dunakin that explores the true life story of Anthony Burns who was living in 1850s Boston as a free man but was kidnapped and put on trial, setting off abolitionist riots.

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Directed by Jeff Church, ***And Justice for Some: The Freedom Trial of Anthony Burns [1858]*** will be performed live on stage January 26-February 21, 2016.

ABOUT THE PLAY

And Justice for Some: The Freedom Trial of Anthony Burns [1858] tells the true story of Anthony Burns, an escaped slave who was arrested and tried in Boston, and despite a fierce defense, was ultimately returned to slavery in the South. His trial created an uproar in Pre-Civil War America. Many in Boston, where the trial was held, believed that a man should not be returned into slavery from a state that was considered a birthplace of liberty. Igniting the rising abolitionist movement, Burns' verdict incited a mob who stormed the courthouse in an attempt to free him from jail. Pacifist abolitionists also attempted back room deals that would have bought Burns' freedom. In the end, federal troops were called in to escort him back to Virginia. Burns' high profile trial, the resulting riots, and subsequent legal and political debates galvanized the Republican Party that would later propel Abraham Lincoln into office.

And Justice for Some was written in 1999 when Discovering Justice: The James D. St. Clair Court Education Project commissioned Theatre Espresso in Boston to create a drama that would introduce young people to the story of Anthony Burns and challenge them to contemplate the many dilemmas its characters encountered. To do so, playwrights Wendy Lement and Bethany Dunakin wrote, as part of each performance, an end-of-play forum that incorporates the audience into the production. Sworn in as Massachusetts State senators, audience members are encouraged to ask in-depth questions of the characters and offer feedback on the contents and outcome of the play.

The Coterie is also preparing students before they see ***And Justice for Some*** with an interactive, in-school workshop that is offered at no additional charge to every paid school group (of 20 or more). Workshops are designed to explore the historical context of the story and encourage students to discuss themes in the play and how they might relate to everyday life. To date, The Coterie has scheduled over 235 of these workshops in grades 6-12 in the Kansas City Metro as well as many surrounding area rural schools.

And Justice for Some: The Freedom Trial of Anthony Burns [1858] will be most appreciated by adults, teens, and youth aged eleven or older. The production is funded in part by the Missouri Arts Council, ArtsKC Fund, and Theater League.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The cast of ***And Justice for Some: The Freedom Trial of Anthony Burns [1858]*** will feature over forty characters played by seven performers crossing color and gender boundaries. The cast includes UMKC Theatre graduate acting students Edwin Brown III (as Anthony Burns); Michael Thayer (as Richard Henry Dana, Mrs. Parker and Officer Batchelder, et al.); Caroline Vuchetich (as Seth Thomas, Mayor of Boston, Louisa May Alcott, et al.); Daniel Fleming (as Chairperson, Marshal Freeman, Elizabeth Mason, Witnesses, et al.); Maya Jackson (as Judge Loring, Reverend Thomas Higginson, et al.); Mariem Diaz (as Reverend Grimes, Judge Sprague, Peter Dunbar, Shopkeeper, et al.); and Joshua LeBrun (as Wendell Phillips, Col. Suttle, President Franklin Pierce, Liberator Reporter, et al.). The artistic and production company includes Jeff Church (director), William J. Christie (resident production stage manager), Scott Hobart (resident technical director), Tzu-Ching Chang (set designer), Ethan Newman (lighting designer), Marc W. Vital II (costume designer), Jae Shanks (sound designer), Tristan James (properties designer), Elizabeth Bowman (dramaturg and asst. director), Scott Stackhouse (speech and dialect coach), Jennifer Martin (Period Style and Movement Coach), Nils Emerson (UMKC MFA technical director), Elizabeth Sampley (UMKC MFA production assistant), Nicole Jaja (master electrician), Jamie Leonard (assistant lighting design), and Joshua Austin (lighting programmer).

ABOUT THE CO-PRODUCTION

And Justice for Some: The Freedom Trial of Anthony Burns [1858] will be presented as a co-production between The Coterie and UMKC Theatre, a collaborative relationship that has become an annual tradition for The Coterie since it began in 1992, with *The Red Badge of Courage* and continued most recently with *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* in 2015. Originally founded as a program that offered MFA actors the chance to work alongside established theatre professionals, the co-productions have since grown to feature both student actors as well as MFA designers and coaches from nearly every area of UMKC's Department of Theatre. The Coterie is proud to continue its long-standing relationship with UMKC Theatre, which benefits up-and-coming young professionals by providing practical, professional work experience, both on stage and behind the scenes.

SHOW DATES, TIMES & TICKETS

The Coterie, now in its 37th Season and named "One of the Five Best Theaters for Young Audiences in the U.S." by *TIME* magazine, will perform ***And Justice for Some: The Freedom Trial of Anthony***

The Coterie's And Justice for Some: The Freedom Trial of Anthony Burns [1858], page 4

Burns [1858] January 26-February 21, 2016, in The Coterie Theatre, located on level one of Crown Center Shops in Kansas City, MO. Press Night will be held on Friday, January 29, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

Individual Tickets: Tickets are \$11.00 for youth under 18, students, and seniors age 60 and older; and \$15.00 for adults.

Group Pricing: The Coterie offers groups of 20 or more a special preview rate of \$5.00 per person the first week of the run, January 26-31, 2015. After preview week, groups pay only \$5.50 per person on weekdays and \$6.50 per person on weekends (Friday nights, Saturdays, and Sundays).

Subscriptions: In lieu of season subscriptions, The Coterie offers the Spotlight Club Pass, which works like season tickets without committing to a set schedule. Spotlight Club members pay \$100.00 for a flexible pass that includes 10 tickets - a savings of 40% off individual ticket prices - that can be used for any show or combination of shows in the 2015/2016 Season.

All tickets and Spotlight Club Passes are on sale now and may be purchased by calling The Coterie's box office at (816) 474-6552, dropping by the box office on level one of the Crown Center Shops, or by visiting www.thecoterie.org.

NOTABLE PERFORMANCE EXTRAS

During the run of *And Justice for Some: The Freedom Trial of Anthony Burns [1858]*, The Coterie invites audiences to take advantage of these special, free performance extras (with paid admission):

Friday, January 29, 7:00 p.m.: Opening Night Celebration. A free post-performance reception with the director, company, staff, and board of directors.

Saturday, January 30, and Sunday, January 31, 2:00 p.m.: Question & Answer session. A free Q&A with members of The Coterie's staff and artistic company will immediately follow the performance.

Saturday, February 13, 2:00 p.m.: Interpreted performance in American Sign Language.

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PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

AND JUSTICE FOR SOME: THE FREEDOM TRIAL OF ANTHONY BURNS [1858]

JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 21, 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		26 9:45 am	27 9:45 am	28 9:45 am 11:45 am	29 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm 🏠🇺🇸	30 2 pm 🏠
31 2 pm 🏠	1	2 9:45 am	3 9:45 am 11:45 am	4 9:45 am 11:45 am	5 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm 🇺🇸	6 2 pm
7 2 pm	8	9 9:45 am	10 9:45 am 11:45 am	11 9:45 am 11:45 am	12 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm 🇺🇸	13 2 pm 🏠
14 2 pm	15	16 9:45 am 11:45 am	17 9:45 am 11:45 am	18 9:45 am 11:45 am	19 9:45 am 11:45 am 7 pm 🇺🇸	20 2 pm
21 2 pm						

CALENDAR LEGEND



Opening Nights



Friday Family Fun Night featuring post-performance Improv Aftergame by The Coterie's Comedy Master students, autograph session, photo op, or other event



Post-performance **Question and Answer session** with the company



Interpreted performances in American Sign Language



Edwin Brown III (as Anthony Burns) and the cast of *And Justice for Some: The Freedom Trial of Anthony Burns [1858]*. Photo by J. Robert Schraeder.

THE REMAINING 2014/2015 SEASON

Following *And Justice for Some*, The Coterie's 2015/2016 Season continues with *Tomás and the Library Lady*, February 25 – March 18, 2016; *Where the Wild Things Are*, March 21 – May 7, 2016; and *Madagascar- A Musical Adventure*, June 14 - August 7, 2016.

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Due to the nature of live theatre, play selection, performance schedule and casting are subject to change.
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